



Director of
Central
Intelligence

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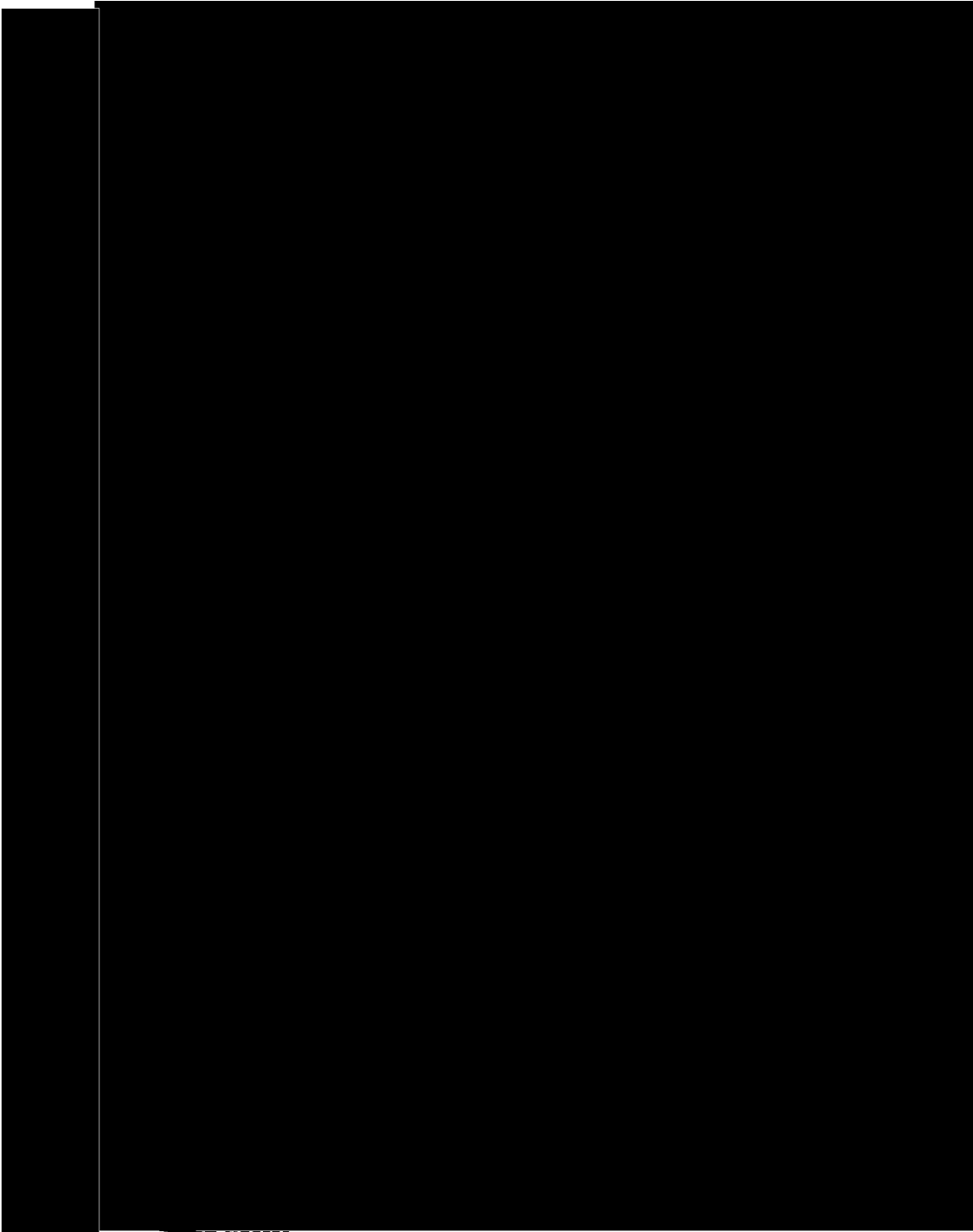
Iran-Iraq: Missile War Resumes 3

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IRAN-IRAQ: Missile War Resumes

Iraq fired a missile at Esfahan yesterday, and reportedly one today at Qom, in retaliation for an Iranian missile attack on Karkuk. Iran said its strike was in response to the Iraqi air raids on the refineries at Tabriz and Esfahan on Sunday. Baghdad had announced earlier that it would rely on airstrikes to continue the war of the cities, but an Iraqi spokesman later said Iraq would retaliate for Iranian missile strikes with "massive missile attacks," according to US Embassy and press reports. Iraqi Foreign Minister Aziz repeated Baghdad's conditions for ending the missile war—an end to Iranian missile, air, and ground attacks and no response to Iraqi airstrikes on economic targets.

Comment: The exchange of missile strikes is likely to continue over the near term, although possibly at lower levels. Iraq's intention to rely more on its Air Force suggests that Baghdad is concerned about its diminishing missile inventory. The Iraqis may have hoped that an Iranian missile response to their air attacks and Iran's likely rejection of Baghdad's hardline conditions would shift to Tehran some of the blame for the continuation of the missile war. Tehran probably would like to end the missile exchanges but apparently is unwilling to accept

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